



# POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF APRIL 6, 2022

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Manchester Police Department  
405 Valley Street  
Manchester, NH 03103

The Regular Monthly Meeting was held at the Manchester Police Department Community Room on April 6, 2022, at 9:00am, attended by:

**Commissioners** Manny Content, Charlie Sherman, Eva Castillo and John Mercier (via Zoom)

**Police Department Staff** Chief Allen Aldenberg, Assistant Chief Steven Mangone, Captain Peter Marr, Captain Kenneth Loui, Captain Shawn McCabe, Captain Brandon Murphy, Captain Christopher Goodnow, Lieutenant Matthew Laroche, Lieutenant Matthew Barter, Heather Hamel (PIO) Diane Kingsbury (Admin. Assist.)

**Others attending the Public Session:** Manchester business owner and blogger Jeff Hastings

## 1. COMMISSION CHAIRMAN OPENING COMMENTS

- Commissioner Manny Content opened the meeting at 9:01a.m., welcoming all those present.

## 2. NOTICES POSTED / APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- The Commission confirmed with Diane Kingsbury that the notices had been posted at the City Library as well as on the MPD's website homepage, event calendar, and via social media.
- Commissioners present unanimously voted to approve the minutes from the 3/2/22 meeting.

## 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Content explained that each Manchester resident wishing to speak shall state his/her name and address, each will have only one opportunity to speak, and will be limited to three minutes in which to address comments on a particular subject to the Commission.

- Jeff Hastings, Manchester business owner and blogger, made a suggestion to put out a public alert if an accident or crime scene shuts down an area for more than 1 hour. Chief Aldenberg advised that Nixle alerts are put out for these types of incidents but will look into other platforms of advisory that may reach more people.

## 4. DIVISIONAL REPORTS

### Legal and Professional Standards Division – Captain Loui

- Sergeant Cataldo and his Training and Recruitment Unit team are doing an outstanding job. By May of this year our expected sworn complement will be 257 with 10 vacancies.
- BolaWrap training for all Patrol sergeants will begin this week. The department will be deploying a limited number of these devices for street supervisors to use to safely restrain non-compliant subjects. The BolaWrap is referred to as a remote restraint device that discharges a Kevlar cord to restrain a subject from 10-25 feet away.
- The APEX simulator has been set up in the shooting range and the department will begin using it this week to put officers through scenario-based training. The simulator places officers in a virtual reality environment and the trainer controls what they see and hear from a laptop in a remote location.

### Questions/Comments/Discussion:

- Commissioner Sherman asked how the Cyber training has been going – Captain Loui advised that it has been going seamless and that the Cyber Crime Unit has been transitioning into a bigger office to accommodate more equipment.
- Commissioner Sherman inquired about how the Cyber Crime Unit is staffed and was advised by Captain Loui that there are 2 Forensic Investigators, 1 CHASE Detective assigned to support them and one Detective who performs a dual role in both the Detective Unit and does forensic work in the Cyber Crime Unit.
- Commissioner Content asked if the acquisition of the Bolawrap will be shared with the public so the community will see that the use of less lethal tactics are used prior to resorting to the use of more lethal methods. Chief Aldenberg advised that de-escalation tools and tactics are not typically announced to the public, but may consider including the topic in various public training venues, like Leadership Greater Manchester and our Citizens Police Academy.
- Jeff Hastings advised that he was able to request the Bolawrap media kit from their website and it appears to be a proactive tool.
- Commissioner Sherman inquired about the cost of the Bolawrap compared to the Tasers and was advised that one Taser is about \$1,500 (with an extra cost for cartridge and training can). One Bolawrap is about \$1,000 per unit (with a \$30 replacement cost). When asked if the Bolawrap would replace the use of Tasers, Chief Aldenberg advised that it would not, but it will help increase the options of less lethal tools available to officers.

### **Investigative Division – Lieutenant Larochelle** (for Captain Leighton)

- There will be an ACERT press conference at YMCA next week regarding ACERT expansion grant funding. Congressman Pappas will be attending and Sergeant Georgoulis will be speaking.
- Several detectives are attending a Basic Homicide Investigation class this week. This class will prepare them for the advanced class in two weeks.
- Continuing to work with the School Board on MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) for School Resource Officers.
- Met with Office of Youth Services Interim Director to determine next steps and future collaboration.
- Community meeting at Hallsville School on 4/6.

#### **Questions/Comments/Discussion:**

- Commissioner Castillo inquired if the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) is looking to move into Hallsville School. Chief Aldenberg advised that the 4/6 meeting was driven by the Aldermen to have a conversation and get community input on the idea. Commissioner Castillo offered commission support if needed.
- Commissioner Content asked what the protocol is at the schools if there is a student disciplinary issue in the classroom that turns out to be a psychological issue. Chief Aldenberg advised that if there is a mental health episode that escalates to violence, the School Resource Officer will step in. Otherwise, if it is not a criminal or delinquency issue, the school will handle the situation.
- Commissioner Content inquired if there has been an increase in student mental health incidents since COVID started. Lieutenant Larochelle advised that the School Resource Officers have noticed more mental health issues recently that could be attributed to COVID but MPD is working hard to separate unnecessary police involvement. The upcoming MOU discussion with the School Board will cover that issue.

### **Patrol Division – Captain McCabe**

- K9 Officer Hennessey has graduated EOD school and is back in service.
- The 8 officers who were on FTO are now on their own, which has increased the Patrol complement.
- Patrol numbers on paper currently stand at 109 assigned with 103 officers being utilized and divided between the three shifts.
- Patrol has lost three officers to reassignments: Officer Kevin Shields to Detectives, Officer David Labbe to the Legal Division/Sex Offender Compliance Unit and Officer Rachael Eutzy to Community Affairs/Traffic Enforcement.

#### **Questions/Comments/Discussion:**

- Commissioner Sherman asked if parking enforcement is part of Manchester Police. Chief Aldenberg advised that Parking Enforcement is not part of MPD, however, the Ordinance Violation Bureau (OVb) does fall under Manchester Police at a separate location.

### **Special Enforcement Division – Captain Murphy:**

- MPD SWAT Training: 4/14 – Annual Firearms Qualifications, 4/21 – IED Training with NH State Police EOD.
- During the month of March, the Sig red dot pistol was well received and highly successful.
- Detective Robert Matzelle was selected to S.W.A.T.
- The 8-hour training block of Surveillance and Advanced Field Training was well received, challenging and highly successful.
- The Special Investigations Unit continues efforts to disrupt the possession and sale of illegal drugs in the City of Manchester. The division is currently engaged in several investigations with state and federal partners targeting mid and high level drug trafficking organizations.
- The Anti-Crime Unit continues efforts to disrupt the illegal possession of firearms and associated gun violence. The unit has several active investigations with state and local partners and continues to make arrests associated with gun violence and other related violent crimes. Career development officers have proven to be highly effective in supporting unit investigations as well as providing additional hot spot patrols.
- The Street Crime Unit continues to address street level possession and distribution of illegal drugs as well as investigation of numerous problem locations reported by the public. Substance Abuse Reduction Grant selected Officers are performing exceptionally. As a result of these efforts, several high profile problem locations have been shut down during the month of March. Detectives efforts have resulted in the seizure of firearms and additional investigative intelligence concerning subjects distributing street level narcotics and violent crimes.

#### **Questions/Comments/Discussion:**

- Commissioner Sherman asked if the S.W.A.T. Team has been busy. Chief Aldenberg advised that the team has been busy, however, the new configuration of including on-duty S.W.A.T. officers on regular Patrol shifts has proven to be effective. This has allowed some incidents to be resolved by using the on-duty S.W.A.T. officers rather than calling out the entire team. Captain Murphy added that the on-duty S.W.A.T. officers can accomplish a lot in conjunction with Patrol officers.

- Commissioner Sherman asked if most of the S.W.A.T. calls are domestic violence related. Captain Murphy advised that most calls are in-progress violent crimes that involve weapons.
- Commissioner Content asked what the protocol is for S.W.A.T. officers who are exposed to high stress situations. Chief Aldenberg advised that with every call-out, there is a debrief for the officers and our Critical Incident Management Team is always involved and available to officers after any critical incident.

#### **Community Affairs Division – Captain Goodnow**

- Upcoming events: **4/30** – Reach for Hope 5K at New England Delta Dental Stadium, **5/5** – Chamber of Commerce Taco Tour on Elm Street.
- Traffic Investigators working on several serious crash investigations: 3/5 – Island Pond Road motorcycle crash, 3/6 – Valley/Pine E-Bike crash, 4/3 – Granite/Elm vehicle vs. 2 pedestrians, 4/5 – Lake/Mammoth vehicle vs. bicycle crash.
- Upcoming Community Policing events: 4/11 – Senior Walks begin, 4/13 Citizens Police Academy begins, 4/30 – DEA Drug Take Back Day.
- Community Policing is working extensively with homeless coordinator, Schonna Green, every Wednesday to address problems. Riverfront camp cleanup will be 4/6 and 4/7. Attending numerous Community meetings.

#### **Questions/Comments/Discussion:**

- Now that bike/motorcycle season is here Commissioner Content asked if we are concerned about vigilantes with reference to the recent Dorchester, MA incident. Chief Aldenberg advised that due to some extensive background work by several officers, warrants were issued and about 6 arrests were made regarding bike incidents in Manchester. He also advised that MPD will not engage in unnecessary and dangerous pursuits of these disruptive motorcycles groups.

#### **Administrative Division – Captain Marr:**

- Currently moving forward with 4 subjects for dispatcher positions who will have a start date of 4/18. This will still leave us with 3 open dispatcher spots.
- Matt LaDuke was chosen to fill the Dispatcher Supervisor position which will be effective later this month.
- Next week is Telecommunications Week – we have a few things planned to show our appreciation and support for the work they all do.
- We just received 6 new cruisers and are now working on getting them outfitted with lights, sirens, computers, rifle racks, etc.

#### **Questions/Comments/Discussion:**

- Commissioner Sherman asked who outfits the cruisers and was advised by Captain Marr that Fleet does most of that work, however, the hardwiring of body cameras and tablets is done by others.
- Commissioner Content inquired if the Drones are still being used and was advised by Chief Aldenberg that they are. He elaborated that they are helpful in missing person cases and also serve as an important officer safety tool in S.W.A.T incidents where the Drone can relay information regarding barricaded subjects without putting officers in danger.
- Commissioner Content asked if the use of Drones is limited and was advised that their use is initiated by a crime, call for service or active incident.

### **5. COMMENTS FROM ASSISTANT CHIEF MANGONE**

- We have 9 recruits at the State Academy who are slated to graduate on 4/22. They will then return and begin their FTO period.
- We are hiring a group of 8 officers who will begin the in-house academy on 5/2. Due to our new testing and hiring process, 3 of these 8 officers have already been hired and have been working in the building doing other tasks in Evidence and Records.
- We currently have 40 applicants who have taken and passed the written test and are scheduled for PT and oral boards on 5/9.

#### **Questions/Comments/Discussion:**

- Commissioner Sherman inquired if the 3 hires who have been working in the building are uniformed and was advised by Chief Aldenberg that they wear recruit uniforms while working in the building assisting with Evidence and Records.

### **6. COMMENTS FROM CHIEF ALDENBERG**

- We are working with the BMA on the FY23 budget and will be meeting today at 11am.
- We are currently finalizing a 2-year contract with ShotSpotter, a company that provides technology that determines where gunshots are fired from, how many shots are fired and the direction of travel. With a 98%-99% accuracy rate, ShotSpotter will notify our dispatch within 60 seconds of any gunshots and where they were detected. Congressman Pappas was able to secure 300,000 in federal funding for this technology which will potentially cover a 2-mile area in Manchester which will be determined based on recent statistics. Within the designated area, ShotSpotter works with building owners to install devices on building tops, poles and other areas they determine would capture the data. This specialized technology is designed specifically for

gunfire and can distinguish the difference between gunfire, backfires and fireworks - It does not pick up audio and conversations. ShotSpotter will be making a presentation to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen on 4/19/22. Manchester will be the only police department in the state to have this.

**Questions/Comments/Discussion:**

- Commissioner Sherman asked where the information goes once gunshots are detected. Chief Aldenberg advised that ShotSpotter staff is notified first and within 60 seconds they in turn will alert our dispatch.
- Jeff Hastings asked when ShotSpotter is expected to be up and running. Chief Aldenberg advised that the department is hoping for this July.
- Commissioner Sherman asked who works on the budget and was advised that the Chief and Assistant Chief work together on the MPD budget.
- Commissioner Castillo commented that other law enforcement agencies in smaller communities are making more money than Manchester. The Chief advised that the 3 unions are currently going to contract mediation and knows that the Mayor is aware that city employees are underpaid.

**7. COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

- Commissioner Content advised the board that it has been past practice to not hold a commission meeting in July and proposed to continue that same practice for 2022. The commissioners present voted unanimously to not hold a July meeting.

**8. TENTATIVE DATE OF THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING**

- Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

**9. END OF PUBLIC SESSION**

- The Public Session ended at 10:12 a.m.